

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2501

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR, EPAP, MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN RUBBER TRADE MISSION TO PRC

1. MALAYSIAN RUBBER EXCHANGE AND LICENSING BOARD (MRELB)
CHAIRMAN LEW SIP HON WILL LEAD FOURTEEN-MAN TRADE MISSION
TO PRC, DEPARTING MALAYSIA MAY 13. MISSION INCLUDES
REPRESENTATIVES OF MRELB, CENTRAL BANK, PERNAS-MARDEC,
FEDERAL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MINISTRY PRIMARY
INDUSTRIES AND RUBBER PRODUCERS AND TRADERS. TWO OF-
FICIALS OF MALAYSIAN EMBASSY PEKING WILL JOIN MISSION.

2. STATED PURPOSES OF MISSION ARE: TO EXPLAIN FUNCTIONS
OF MRELB IN HOPE THAT RELEVANT PRC AGENCY WILL JOIN AS
MEMBER; FOSTER MORE DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN-
CLUDING LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SALE OF STANDARD MALAYSIAN
RUBBER (SMR), CONVENTIONAL RUBBER AND LATEX, WHICH
MISSION AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE; ASSESS FUTURE TRENDS OF
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NATURAL RUBBER CONSUMPTION IN PRC; DISCUSS ANY TECH-
NICAL PROBLEMS RE IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION OF SMR;
INTRODUCE NEW SPECIAL TYPES OF RUBBER (TIRE RUBBER,
DEPROTEINIZED NATURAL RUBBER, OIL EXTENDED NATURAL

RUBBER) AND ADVISE RE DEVELOPMENTS IN PRODUCTION SMR AND OTHER TECHNICALLY SPECIFIED RUBBERS; VIEW WEIGHING, SAMPLING AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES AT PORTS OF ENTRY; NEGOTIATE FOR SPACE ON CHINESE VESSELS AND DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF MERCHANTS AGREEMENT WITH CHINA NATIONAL CHARTERING CORPORATION (ZHONGZU).

3. MISSION SCHEDULED ATTEND CLOSING CEREMONY KWANGCHOW SPRING TRADE FAIR ON MAY 15 AND PROCEED TO PEKING ON MAY 16 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINA NATIONAL CHEMICAL IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION, ZHONGZU, CHINA NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (ZHONGWAIYUN) AND CHINA COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH CHINA PRESENTLY IMPORTS ONLY ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN PERCENT OF MALAYSIAN RUBBER EXPORTS, IT NOW RANKS FOURTH AS BUYER OF SMR AND FIFTH OVERALL (97,905 TONS IN 1974). SMR COMPRISES ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF EXPORTS TO CHINA, LATEX ABOUT TEN PERCENT AND BALANCE SMOKED RUBBER SHEETS. ALL EXPORTS PRESENTLY ON CHINESE BOTTOMS. ALL LATEX EXPORTED IN 55-GALLON DRUMS BECAUSE LACK OF BULK HANDLING FACILITIES AT PORTS OF ENTRY. CHINA CONSIDERED TO HAVE GREAT RUBBER MARKET POTENTIAL IN VIEW VERY LOW PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AND BECAUSE NR COMPRISES 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL USAGE IN CONTRAST TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES USAGE WHERE RATION IS ABOUT 65:35 IN FAVOR OF SYNTHETIC. TOTAL NR PRODUCTION BY CHINA (ON HAI-NAN) UNDERSTOOD BY MRELB TO BE 20,000 TONS ANNUALLY.
UNDERHILL

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